

# PURCHASING OF FRIAR LANDS SOLVES PHILIPPINE PROBLEM

Large Estates Will Fall Into the Hands of Small Farmers, and Church Will Assume Same Position Toward Civil Rule as It Does in United States.

As a rule, the Government of the United States has little or nothing to do with religious societies or corporations and their members. The church is so completely separated from the state that it is difficult to imagine cases in which the policy of a church in the selection of its ministers and the assignment of them to duty could be regarded as of political moment or as a proper subject of comment.

In the pacification of the Philippines, however, it was impossible to ignore the great part which that question played. With the exception of the Moros, who are Moslems, and the wild tribes, who are pagans, the Philippine people belong to the Roman Catholic Church. The total number of Catholics, as shown by the church registry in 1896, was 6,550,388. To care for them in that year there were in the archipelago 746 regular parishes, 106 mission parishes, and 116 missions, or 967 in all. Of the regular parishes, all but 150 were administered by Spanish monks of the Dominican, Augustinian, or Franciscan orders. Natives were not admitted to these orders. There were two kinds of Augustinians in the Philippines, the shod and the unshod. The latter are called Recoletos, and are merely an offshoot from the original Order of St. Augustine.

**Friars Driven Out.**  
In the course of the revolution of 1896 and 1898 against Spain, all the Dominicans, Augustinians, Recoletos, and Franciscans acting as parish priests were driven from their parishes to take refuge in Manila. Forty were killed, and 104 were imprisoned, and were not all released until, by the advance of the American troops, it became impossible for the insurgents to retain them. Of the 1,124 who were to the islands in 1898, less than 500 remain. The remainder were killed or died, returned to Spain, or went to China or South America.

There were also in the islands, engaged in missions and missionary work, forty-two Jesuits, sixteen Capuchins, and six Benedictines, and while many of these left their missions because of disturbed conditions they do not seem to have been assaulted or imprisoned for any length of time.

In addition to the members of the monastic orders, there were 150 native secular clergy, in charge of small parishes who were not disturbed. There were also many native priests in the larger parishes who assisted the friar curates, and their remains and have been acting as parish priests.

**Chief Political Question.**  
The burning political question, the discussion of which has agitated the Philippines ever since the advent of the American forces in the islands, has been whether the members of the four great orders of St. Dominic, St. Augustine, St. Francis, and the Recoletos should be turned to the parishes from which they had been expelled by the revolution. Colloquially, the term "friars" includes only the members of these four orders.

The Jesuits, Capuchins, Benedictines, and the Paulists, of whom there were a few, have done only mission work or teaching, and did not arouse the hostility manifested against the four larger orders.

Soon after the arrival of the Taft Commission in Manila, Archbishop Chapelle, of New Orleans, apostolic delegate, called on the members of the commission and requested that in any investigation into matter of the friars which the commission might deem wise to institute the province of the orders and the five bishops, including the Archbishop of Manila, all of them friars, have a hearing. According to the commission, the subject was assigned to the members of the commission, and the Archbishop of Manila, the Bishop of Cebu, and the Bishop of Iloilo, and the Bishop of Zamboanga, and so, too, the episcopal administrator of the diocese of Nueva Caceres.

The questions asked covered all the charges which had been made against the friars, the feeling of the people toward them, the extent of their property, the part they took in politics and the government of the islands under Spanish rule, and the possibility of their return to the parishes. Other witnesses, Philippine laymen, American Catholic priests, army officers, Catholic and Protestant, and newspaper correspondents were examined in great numbers.

**Friar as Parish Priest.**  
This investigation revealed the fact that the friar as a parish priest was usually the only man of intelligence and education in his parish, who knew both the native dialect and the Spanish language. His position as the spiritual guide of the people necessarily led to his acting as intermediary between them and the rest of the world in secular matters. In only a few of the parishes was there any other Spanish representative of the government of Spain than the friar priest.

At first actually, and afterward by law, he came to discharge many civil duties and to supervise, correct, or veto whatever was done or sought to be done in the pueblo which was his parish. The priest, therefore, was not only the spiritual guide, but was in every sense the municipal ruler.

The archbishop and bishops formed part of what was known in Manila as the board of authorities. The duties of this board were principally to investigate matters of urgent moment, and in times of crises to advise the governor general. The participation of the friars in the affairs of the parish, provincial, and insular governments was much more effective to secure entire control of the political situation than if the priests had been merely secular and not bound together with the close association of the monastic orders.

**Government of Priests.**  
The truth is that the whole government of Spain in those islands rested on the friars. To use the expression of the provincial of the Augustinians, the friars were "the pedestal or foundation of the sovereignty of Spain in these islands," which being removed, "the whole structure would topple over." The number of Spanish troops in the Philippines did not exceed 5,000 until the revolution. The tenure of office of the friar curate was permanent. Once settled in a parish, a priest usually continued there until superannuation. He was, therefore, a constant political factor for a generation.

The four great orders, one the Franciscans, was not permitted to own property, with the exception of convents and schools. This was not true of the other three. They owned valuable property in Manila and had money to loan. But the chief property of these orders was in agricultural lands. The total amount owned was approximately 400,000 acres. This land was usually rented on shares in small holdings.

Leases were given for three years, and no assignment was permitted without the consent of the order. Tenancy usually continued in the same family, and the tenant right seems sometimes to have been considered valuable. During the revolutionary period the friars did not attempt to collect rents from the persons occupying their lands. On the other hand, agents of the insurgents claiming title by virtue of confiscation acts of the so-called Malolos government, from time to time made collections from the tenants.

**Not Religious Question.**  
As set forth in the report of the Philippine Commission, this was not a religious question. The Philippine people love the Catholic Church. The solemnity and grandeur of its ceremonies appeal most strongly to their religious motives, and it may be doubted whether there is any country in the world in which the people have a more profound attachment to their church than in the Philippines. The feeling against the friars

was solely political, for they were to the Philippines the embodiment of all in the Spanish rule that was oppressive.

Provincials of the orders were understood, in their evidence given before the commission, to indicate a willingness to sell their agricultural holdings if a satisfactory price should be paid for the same. This plan of solving a question which was not created, but inherited from the former sovereignty of the Philippines, became a subject of careful consideration, both on the part of the government at Manila and Washington, and by the church authorities at Rome and in the Philippines.

It was the expressed desire of the Filipino people that these lands be opened for settlement. It was the avowed purpose of the government of the United States to deprive no person, corporation or order of any property without their consent and for value received. The question was new, complicated and a delicate one to handle, and in unskilled hands might have become extremely serious.

**Taft Visits the Pope.**  
Fortunately, the Government had full confidence in the wisdom of the church, and the church was convinced that the Government desired to do what was right in the matter, taking in account the desires of the Philippine people, the rights of the orders and the principles of our institutions.

When the civil governor of the Philippines, William H. Taft, was in this country in 1902 and about to return to his post of duty, he was instructed by the Secretary of War to return by way of Rome, and ascertain what church authorities had power to negotiate and determine upon a sale of the lands of the religious orders in the Philippines. He was advised that any negotiations were to be subject to the granting of power by Congress to follow the regulations by binding action.

The negotiations in Rome were carried on in the best of spirit on both sides, and after much progress had been made Governor Taft proceeded on his voyage to Manila, with the understanding that Rome would send to the Philippines some one with authority to continue and close up the business. Accordingly, Mr. Guld was appointed by the holy see and proceeded to Manila, and the prolonged investigation, which was reached whereby the ecclesiastical orders agreed to sell their lands for the sum of \$2,500,000.

It is the purpose of the Philippine government to resell these church lands in small holdings, giving preference to the present occupants, and at a price that will simply cover the cost of purchase. In this way the great estates pass into the hands of the small farmers, who will be able to buy and pay for their homes and farms out of the profits arising from the cultivation thereof. This is a happy solution of a perplexing problem, and the credit upon all persons interested.

The Secretary of War and Governor Taft have done many things for the benefit of the islands, but none of them so momentous as this happy solution of the friar question.

## CUNARD LINER WINS RACE WITH ST. PAUL

Lucania, Caked With Ice, Reaches Port.

## LADY DURAND ON BOARD

Steamer Campania Easily Beats St. Paul in Mail Race to Queenstown.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Looking as though she had just returned from a voyage to the North Pole, the Cunard liner Lucania swung up to her pier at 9:30 this morning. From stem to stern she was a solid mass of ice. Her bows and hull were sheathed thick with it; great glistening icicles festooned her rails, and the shrouds and ratlines were all ice-covered.

The Lucania did not, however, experience any severe weather on the way over, though the seas were at times rough and the waves high.

**"Where Is St. Paul?"**  
"Where is the St. Paul?" was the first question asked by crew and passengers alike. The satisfaction shown by the ship's officers on learning that the American liner would not be in till late this afternoon was evident, and proves that great interest is taken in the relative speed of the rival boats.

Among the arrivals on the Lucania was Lady Durand, wife of the British ambassador, and Miss Durand. Sir Mortimer was at the pier to meet them.

**Native Prince Aboard.**  
The Sahibzada Nasir Ali Khan, brother of a native prince from the province of Rampur, India, was also on board. He is an undergraduate at Oxford, and comes here for the holidays. Besides 1,858 sacks of mail, the Lucania brought \$254,000 gold and \$29,000 in Mexican dollars.

Among the passengers were Henry White, first secretary of the American embassy in London; S. T. St. George Carey, E. S. Clonston, Joseph Dwyer, Col. C. C. Mariford, Lord Melgund, son of the governor general of Canada, Lord Minto, Tirso Mesa, and John Sanderson.

**Campania Aboard.**  
LONDON, Dec. 19.—The Cunard Line steamship Campania, which sailed from New York December 12, at 1:12 p. m. and arrived at Queenstown yesterday at 11:33 a. m., easily won this week's mail race.

Her letters were distributed by the first mail this morning, while the mails of the American Line steamship St. Paul, which left New York December 12, at 11:30 p. m., or two hours and three minutes before the Campania, were only delivered at 1:30 this afternoon.

**Hardships of Begging.**  
Lady-Begging must be hard. Taft—It is, lady. This is the sixth time I have had to eat soup today.—Fliegende Blätter.

## DISTRICT LAUNDRYMAN ENTERS STRONG DENIAL

No Ground, He Says, for Complaint About Work Done for Municipal Departments.

The District Commissioners have taken no further action regarding the contract for washing for the various municipal departments. The complaints against the manner in which it was alleged the work was being done were duly set forth in last Sunday's Times.

T. H. Marshall, manager of the Harvard Laundry Company, to which the contract for District washing was awarded, has made a statement giving his side of the case. Mr. Marshall charges that his competitors in the laundry field are responsible for the complaints, and says:

"We received the contract for the city laundry in a fair contest, and have discharged our duty under the contract faithfully. About the 16th of November Commissioner West notified me to appear at his office. I called, and he showed me four pillow cases that he said had been handed to him by Major Sylvester as samples of the work that purported to come from our laundry."

"I told him that the pieces in question had never been in our laundry, or any other laundry. And I repeat the fact. I further stated to the Commissioner that I would esteem it a favor if he would send some one to the laundry to inspect the work before it was turned out and delivered to the employees of the District. We are doing the District work as we do all other work—in a first-class manner, and we invite the public to call at our works and see how we serve our patrons."

**THIEF MAKES MERRY IN A FREIGHT CAR**  
LANCASTER, Dec. 19.—Arthur Taylor, of Little Washington, Va., aged seven years, was arrested in a Pennsylvania Railroad freight car near Lancaster, his presence having been detected by the noise he made through being intoxicated.

He had boarded the car in Philadelphia, broken open cases of goods, and enjoyed himself drinking whisky and eating candy.

**MONOLINE COMPANY MAY SELL TO MERGENTHALER**  
The stockholders of the Monoline Compositing Company met at the Washington Loan and Trust Building yesterday, to consider the contemplated sale of the company's rights to the Mergenthaler Linotype Company.

After long discussion the stockholders decided to confer authority on the board of directors to act in the matter. No further business was transacted.

## ARE YOUR KIDNEYS WEAK?

Thousands of Men and Women Have Kidney Trouble and Never Suspect It.

To Prove What the Great Kidney Remedy, Swamp-Root, Will Do for YOU, Every Reader of The Times May Have a Sample Bottle Sent Absolutely Free By Mail.

It used to be considered that only urinary and bladder troubles were to be traced to the kidneys, but now modern science proves that nearly all diseases have their beginning in the disorder of these most important organs.

The kidneys filter and purify the blood—that is their work.

Therefore, when your kidneys are weak or out of order, you can understand how quickly your entire body is affected, and how every organ seems to fail to do its duty.

If you are sick or "feel badly," begin taking the great kidney remedy, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, because as soon as your kidneys are getting better they will help all the other organs to health. A trial will convince anyone.

I was a constant sufferer for a number of years with weakness of the kidneys and back and frequent desire to urinate, but after using Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, I am entirely cured and cheerfully recommend this wonderful remedy to any who may suffer from these common complaints. Most truly yours, W. C. BAILY, Second Lieutenant of Police, Columbus, Ga.

Weak and unhealthy kidneys are responsible for many kinds of diseases, and if permitted to continue much suffering with fatal results are sure to follow. Kidney trouble irritates the nerves, makes you dizzy, restless, sleepless, and irritable, makes you pass water often during the day, and obliges you to get up many times during the night. Unhealthy kidneys cause rheumatism, gravel, catarrh of the bladder, pain or dull ache in the back, joints and muscles; make your head ache and back ache, cause indigestion, stomach, and liver trouble; you get a sallow, yellow complexion; makes you feel as though you had heart trouble; you may have plenty of ambition, but no strength; get weak and waste away.

The cure for these troubles is Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the world-famous kidney remedy.

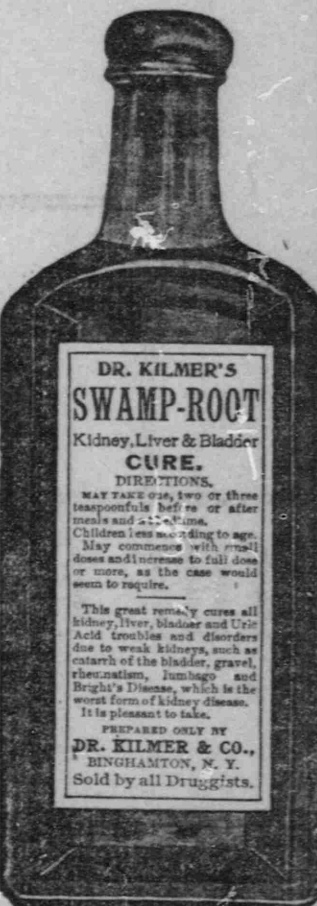
In taking Swamp-Root you afford natural help to Nature, for Swamp-Root is the most perfect healer and gentle aid to the kidneys that is known to medical science.

**How to Find Out.**

If there is any doubt in your mind as to your condition, take from your urine on rising about four ounces, place it in a glass or bottle, and let it stand twenty-four hours. If, on examination, it is milky or cloudy; if there is a brick-dust settling, or if small particles float about in it, your kidneys are in need of immediate attention.

Swamp-Root is pleasant to take and is used in the leading hospitals, recommended by physicians in their private practice, and is taken by doctors themselves who have kidney ailments, because they recognize it as the greatest and most successful remedy for kidney, liver, and bladder troubles.

**EDITORIAL NOTE.**—You may have a sample bottle of this wonderful remedy, Swamp-Root, sent absolutely free by mail, also a book telling all about Swamp-Root, and containing many of the thousands upon thousands of testimonials received from men and women who owe their good health, in fact their very lives, to the great curative properties of Swamp-Root. In writing to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., be sure to say you read this generous offer in The Washington Sunday Times.



(Swamp-Root is Pleasant to Take.)  
If you are already convinced that Swamp-Root is what you need, you can purchase the regular 50-cent and \$1 size bottles at the drug stores everywhere. Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle.

**ESTABLISHED 1858.**

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In the proper stocking of your Sideboard for the holiday season the Shoonmaker Co. offers you the largest variety of superior wines to be found this side of New York—and at lower prices than you will find elsewhere. Here are a few specialties—

**Veuve Cliquot Champagnes.**  
Declared by connoisseurs to be the finest wine imported into America. It is the world's highest quality. Brut—Gold Label—See—Yellow Label.

**White Wines.**  
The Cart Acker—Wiesbaden—Rhine Wines are the highest quality obtainable. All are here—from the medium grade to Johannesberger.

**Rare Old Brandies.**  
We have some dating back to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Our brandies are received direct from J. F. Martell and Grand, Dupuy & Co., Cognac, France.

**WHISKIES.**  
Every popular brand is here, as well as the two famous whiskies of the house of Shoonmaker—"Tennessee," at \$1 a bottle, and 10-year-old Shoonmaker Penn Rye, \$1.25 per bottle.

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Particularly choice brands of Key West and Havana—at lowest possible prices.

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This superbly equipped Furniture Department has ten thousand answers to the what-to-give question—every one most appropriate, most acceptable, most worthwhile. A few suggestions:

Oak Sideboard with French plate bevel mirror, highly finished and polished; sells regularly \$15.00. Special \$10.49

Enamel Iron Bed with Brass rail and knobs; sells regularly \$5.75. Monday Special \$3.89

Solid Oak Dining Room Chair, strongly braced back, and cane seat; worth \$1.00. Special for Monday 59c

Child's well-made Rocker, wood seat; medium high back; sells regularly, 90c. Special price 39c

Oak and Mahogany Parlor Table, 16x18 top; turned legs and with lower shelf; regular \$6 value. Special for Monday, 39c

36-inch Ingrain Carpet, large variety patterns and colors; regular 65c yd. Special for Monday 39c

36x36-inch good quality Matting ends; sell regularly from 25c to 50c yard. Special for Monday 3c

**A Rug or Carpet Makes an Acceptable Gift**

Smirna Rugs, Oriental and Persian designs; very handsome; sells regularly \$2.00. Special for Monday 89c

Heavy Old Cloth runner, good quality and pretty patterns; sells regularly 35c yard. Special for Monday 19c

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40 Bushels Crushed Coke, delivered, \$4.50  
25 Bushels Crushed Coke, delivered, \$3.00  
60 Bushels Large Coke, delivered, \$5.50  
40 Bushels Large Coke, delivered, \$3.75  
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